

Mr. Jim Anderson
United Press International
1400 Eye St., NW
Washington, D.C.

8/24/86

Dear Mr. Anderson,

"How the press became an arm of government" may certainly include many government agencies.

It also may include what the press refuses to report.

In fact it includes, in my experience, refusal to report felonies - please take this literally - before the federal courts by the Department of Justice and the FBI.

And this in an area in which, by the traditional standards of my own reporting past, one would expect the press to be most sensitive - freedom of information.

The only reporting of the FOIA litigation in which undenied (and overwhelmingly proven) prejury, fraud and misrepresentation is about to gut that act was, like your reporters' committee experience in today's Post, was by the so-called Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press. And that reporting was for all practical purposes a handout by the government's attorney in which there is no mention of these felonies. (Which are, by the way, proven by the FBI's own records filed in the litigation.)

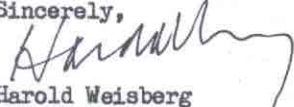
If any of this is of any interest for your book, copies of all the court records are available to you here or in Washington.

There is a large and untold story of how the FBI arranged this misuse of the press, with some well-documented illustrations in its own records I have. Under Cartha DeLoach the FBI devised a simple system for hiding these records from normal searches, by classifying them as "Research Matters" and holding that classification to be irrelevant to the searches. I've obtained about a quarter of a million pages of FBI records under FOIA and although such "Research Matters" records are relevant and abundant there has never been any disclosure of any such file. I learned of them by filing notations on disclosed records. Then I began making separate files of such records when they were duplicated in other files that were disclosed.

When I say that the press refused to report these undenied felonies I mean that I sent copies of the pleadings of both sides to quite a few, ^{print}press, radio and TV, complete with the documentary proof. By the standards of my reporting days the documents in themselves would have been considered newsworthy. If your own legal correspondent didn't throw them away, he has them.

Your subtitle describes what can be one of the most important books of our day. The best of luck with it! If I have anything that can be of interest or use, you are welcome to it, with or without attribution, no strings.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg
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Frederick, Md. 21701